

THE FORCE IN EACH DAY.

To live each day so that it ministers to the day that is to follow, is the unexpressed hope of every thinking mortal. In business we call this foresight, in education it is love of study, in religion we call it living like a Christian. Each day whether we will it so or not, represents the high water mark of attainment. The mistakes of to day mark the development of business sagacity; the unlearned lesson is the test of intellectual ambition; the sin of to day measures the strength of resistance.

Physicians tell us that our weakest point, physically, measures our strength to resist disease. In mechanics there is an adage that expresses a principle: "The vessel is no stronger than its weakest part." It is true of man. The measure of his strength is where he shows the least resistance; where he is persuaded by outward or inward forces to that act which results in evil, in retarding of development, whether in purse, in mind, or in soul.

Men grow narrow because they do not live in sympathy with the times: they grow hard because they keep the world outside; they lose in spiritual force because they keep that force under in their daily life. Every day witnesses to the life lived the preceding day; this must be so, for life is cumulative either in good or evil; there is no blank. Consciously or unconsciously, this force is working, for good or evil; stagnation is death. When we realize this to the full, we strive to compel attainment. When we look upon each day as a period by itself, we become the playthings of time.

The Christian Home.

ARM FOR THE FIGHT.

The spirit of unbelief is abroad, among the coarse and cultivated, the polite and the boorish, the virtuous and the vicious, the ignorant and the learned, the impious and the religious; in dram shops and in work shops, in stables and in seminaries, among scoffers and theologians, among men of iron-clad creeds and men with no creeds at all;—among all sorts and classes of people, the seeds of doubt, distrust, and uncertainty have been diligently sown, and are bringing forth abundant fruit. And many who

profess to be teachers of the Gentiles in faith and verity, have never had a sufficient acquaintance with the Word of Truth to fit them for intelligent discussion of these momentous themes. They are stumped by objections which would seem puerile to any careful student of the Scripture; they are confounded by statements which they should know are utterly false; and they are put to flight because they have never really taken to themselves the Sword of the Spirit, and the shield of faith. Such persons need to study the Word of God, and to earnestly pray that the Lord may open their understanding that they may understand the Scriptures, and give them "great boldness in the faith," that they may be able to guide the perplexed, convince gainsayers, and give to every man that asketh them a reason for the hope that is within them.

The policy of cowardice and silence will not avail in times like these. The difficulties that confront the believer must be met. To say to a man, "You are an infidel, and I will have nothing to do with you," is simply to court contempt, and strengthen the hands of the wicked. Where would the gospel have been if the first apostles and teachers had pursued such a course as this? They disputed daily in synagogues, in schools, and in market-places. They were ever ready to instruct and teach the erring.

The gospel work from the beginning was a warfare, and it should be a warfare still. So long as Israel skulk in their tents, so long will Goliath defy the armies of the living God: when David gets his sling and stones, the battle is over before it fairly begins. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all to stand."

THE FRAGRANT ROSE.

It has been said, "If I wear a rose in my bosom, it scents my whole person. Has the Saviour a place in my heart? He communicates the fragrance of His merits to my soul, and His Spirit fills the atmosphere through which I move, as it were with the breath of heaven. Even in death the rose is sweet, passing sweet, and sweetens every place where it lies. Thus the 'Rose of Sharon'

has given the fragrance of life to the very chambers of death and the grave, and to that wardrobe of the saints, where their material garments are to be laid up, till the morning of the resurrection, then to be brought forth beautiful and fresh, fit for the court of heaven."

O ye beloved of the Lord let the "Rose of Sharon" be spread over your whole character and life, so that all with whom you come in contact shall "take knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus."

Christian Standard.

INSPIRATION AND SYSTEM.

Men work either by inspiration or by system. When the inspiration is used up, the system must follow; but as the former is still alive there is possibly no need of the latter. Here is a principle which it behooves us to study, especially in the worship and the work of the church. First comes the inspiration, then the system. And the two do not conflict. Inspiration and system are both from God, and each has its place and time. There are occasions where men pray and give and work, under the inspiration and without the system, but a long experience has shown that the most work, the best given and the highest worship result from system.

—Lutheran World.

PRAYER FOR THE PREACHER.

John Livingston, of Scotland, once spent a whole night in prayer with a company of his brethren, before God's throne; and the next day, under his sermon, five hundred souls were saved. All the world has heard how the audience of the President Edwards was moved by his terrible sermon on "Sinners in the hands of an angry God;" some of them even grasping hold of the pillars of the sanctuary, from feeling that their feet were actually sliding into the pit. But the secret of that sermon's power is known to but few. Some Christians in the vicinity (Enfield, Mass.) had become alarmed, lest, while God was blessing other places, he should in anger pass them by; and so they met on the preceding evening, and spent the whole night in agonizing prayer.